

Commission shall, upon recommendation by the head of the department or agency involved, determine whether such officer or employee is entitled to retirement under this subsection. In making such determination, the Commission shall give full consideration to the degree of hazard to which such officer or employee is subjected in the performance of his duties, rather than the general duties of the class of the position held by such officer or employee."

Approved July 2, 1948.

[CHAPTER 808]

AN ACT

To create a commission to hear and determine the claims of certain motor carriers.

July 2, 1948
[S. 1260]
[Public Law 880]

Motor Carrier
Claims Commission.

Purpose.

3 CFR, 1944 Supp.,
p. 70.

Composition.

Vacancies.
Quorum.

Employees.

Meetings.

Period for receiving
claims.
Post, p. 1290.

Supra.

Administration of
oaths, etc.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby created and established a Motor Carrier Claims Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commission.

SEC. 2. The Commission shall hear and determine, according to law, existing claims against the United States arising out of the taking by the United States of possession or control of any of the motor-carrier transportation systems described in Executive Order Numbered 9462, dated August 11, 1944 (C. F. R., 1944 Supp., p. 70). The settlement of any claim prior to the enactment of this Act shall not prevent the Commission from hearing and determining such claim if it determines that the principles of equity as administered by the courts require that such settlement be set aside and that such claim be heard and determined.

SEC. 3. The Commission shall consist of a Chairman and two other members, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and who shall each receive a salary of \$15,000 per year. At least two of such members shall be learned in the law. Each member shall take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to discharge faithfully the duties of his office. The members shall hold office until the dissolution of the Commission as hereinafter provided. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. Two members shall constitute a quorum, and the agreement of two members shall be necessary to any and all determinations for the transaction of the business of the Commission, and if there be a quorum, no vacancy shall impair or affect the business of the Commission, or its determinations.

SEC. 4. The Commission shall appoint a clerk and such other employees as shall be requisite to conduct the business of the Commission. All such employees shall take oath for the faithful discharge of their duties and shall be under the direction of the Commission in the performance thereof.

SEC. 5. The Commission shall meet at such times and places as it may prescribe, shall keep a full written record of all its hearings and proceedings which shall be open to public inspection, and shall have power to establish its rules of procedure.

SEC. 6. The Commission shall receive claims for a period of six months after the date of enactment of this Act, and not thereafter. The jurisdiction of the Commission over claims presented to it as provided in section 2 of this Act shall be exclusive; but nothing in this Act shall prevent any person who does not elect to present his claim to the Commission from pursuing any other remedy available to him. The Attorney General or his assistants shall represent the United States in all claims presented to the Commission.

SEC. 7. Any member of the Commission or any employee of the Commission, designated in writing for the purpose by the Chairman, may administer oaths and examine witnesses. Any member of the

Commission may require by subpoena (1) the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and the production of all necessary books, papers, documents, correspondence, and other evidence, from any place in the United States at any designated place of hearing; or (2) the taking of depositions before any designated individual competent to administer oaths under the laws of the United States or of any State or Territory. In the case of a deposition, the testimony shall be reduced to writing by the individual taking the deposition or under his direction and shall be subscribed by the deponent. In taking oral testimony, opportunity shall be given for cross-examination, under such regulations as the Commission may prescribe. Witnesses subpoenaed to testify or whose depositions are taken pursuant to this Act, and the officers or persons taking the same, shall severally be entitled to the same fees and mileage as are paid for like services in the courts of the United States.

Subpena of witnesses.

SEC. 8. The final determination of the Commission shall be in writing, shall be filed with its clerk, and shall include (1) its findings of the facts upon which its conclusions are based; (2) a statement (a) whether there are any just grounds for relief of the claimant and, if so, the amount thereof; (b) whether there are any allowable offsets, counterclaims, or other deductions, and, if so, the amount thereof; and (3) a statement of its reasons for its findings and conclusions.

Final determination.

SEC. 9. (a) When the final determination of the Commission has been filed with the clerk of said Commission the clerk shall give notice of the filing of such determination to the parties to the proceeding in manner and form as directed by the Commission. Such determination shall be subject to review in the same manner as is provided for cases in the Court of Claims upon application to the Supreme Court within three months from the date of the filing of such determination with the clerk.

Notice to parties.

SEC. 10. In each claim, after the proceedings have been finally concluded, the Commission shall promptly submit its report to Congress.

Report to Congress.

The report to Congress shall contain (1) the final determination of the Commission; (2) a transcript of the proceedings or judgment upon review, if any, with the instructions of the Supreme Court; and (3) a statement of how each Commissioner voted upon the final determination of the claim.

SEC. 11. (a) When the report of the Commission determining any claimant to be entitled to recover has been filed with Congress, such report shall have the effect of, and be paid in the same manner as is provided for, a final judgment of the Court of Claims.

Payment of claim.

The payment of any claim, after its determination in accordance with this Act, shall be a full discharge of the United States of all claims and demands touching any of the matters involved in the controversy.

(b) A final determination against a claimant made and reported in accordance with this Act shall forever bar any further claim or demand against the United States arising out of the matter involved in the controversy.

SEC. 12. The Commission shall determine all claims presented to it as expeditiously as possible, and shall make a report to Congress of its progress not later than the fifteenth of April of each year until its dissolution.

Annual report to Congress.

SEC. 13. The existence of the Commission shall terminate at the end of two years after the first meeting of the Commission or at such earlier time after the expiration of the six months' period of limitation set forth in section 6 hereof as the Commission shall have made its final report to Congress on all claims filed with it. Upon its dissolution the records of the Commission shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States.

Termination of Commission.
Post, p. 1290.

Ante, p. 1222.

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